

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Immediately following the title please insert the following:

—This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 10/251,155, which was filed on September 20, 2002.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

—The present invention is directed to process for preparing a DMC catalyst which involves combining: i) at least one metal salt; ii) at least one metal cyanide salt; iii) at least one organic complexing ligand; iv) at least one alkaline metal salt; and, optionally, v) at least one functionalized polymer.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

—In a first aspect, the present invention is a process for preparing a DMC catalyst comprising combining: i) at least one metal salt; ii) at least one metal cyanide salt; iii) at least one organic complexing ligand; iv) at least one alkaline metal salt; and, optionally, v) at least one functionalized polymer, under conditions sufficient to form a catalyst.—

Please replace the text at page 4, lines 5-31, with the following rewritten text.

In another aspect, the present invention is a DMC catalyst which is represented by the general formula $M^1_x([M^2_x(CN)_y]_z[M^3_{(x)(y)}]) \cdot L^1 \cdot L^2 \cdot M^4_z$, wherein

M^1 represents at least one metal salt;

$[M^2_x(CN)_y]_z$ represents at least one metal cyanide salt;

M^3 represents at least one transition metal salt;

M^4 represents at least one alkaline metal salt, present in an amount within the range of from about 0.4 to about 6 wt. %, based on the total weight of the

double metal cyanide catalyst;

L¹ represents at least one organic complexing ligand;

L² is optional and can represent at least one functionalized polymer;

and

x, x', y and z are integers ~~and are~~ chosen such that electroneutrality of the DMC catalyst ~~exists~~ is maintained.

In yet another aspect, the present invention is a process for preparing a polyol comprising reacting i) at least one starter compound having active hydrogen atoms with ii) at least one oxide in the presence of iii) at least one DMC catalyst which is represented by the ~~general~~-formula



wherein

M¹ represents at least one metal ~~salt~~;

[M²_x(CN)_y]M² represents at least one metal cyanide ~~salt~~;

M³ represents at least one transition metal salt;

M⁴ represents at least one alkaline metal salt present in an amount within the range of from about 0.4 to about 6 wt.%, based on the total weight of the double metal cyanide catalyst;

L¹ represents at least one organic complexing ligand;

L² is optional and can represent at least one functionalized polymer;

and

x, x', y and z are integers ~~and are~~ chosen such that electroneutrality of the DMC catalyst ~~exists~~ is maintained.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

—Any alkaline metal salt can be used in the present invention. Preferably, alkaline metal halides are used in the present invention. More preferably, sodium chloride, sodium bromide, sodium iodide, lithium chloride, lithium bromide, lithium iodide, potassium chloride, potassium bromide, potassium iodide and mixtures thereof are used in the present invention.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

—The relative amounts of organic complexing ligand and alkaline metal salt used in the present invention can vary. A skilled person can control catalyst activity, polyol viscosity and the like by varying these amounts. Preferably, DMC catalysts produced by the process of the present invention are composed of at least one alkaline metal salt which is present in an amount within the range of from about 0.1 to about 10 wt.%, more preferably, from about 0.4 to about 6 wt.%, most preferably, from about 1 to about 3 wt.%, based on the total weight of the DMC catalyst.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

—The combination of metal salt, metal cyanide salt, organic complexing ligand, alkaline metal salt and, optionally, functionalized polymer, can be accomplished by any of the methods known in the art. Such methods include, for example, precipitation, dispersion and incipient wetness. Preferably, the process of the present invention involves using a precipitation method in which an aqueous solution of at least one metal salt employed in a stoichiometric excess, i.e., at least 50 mol. %, based on the molar amount of metal cyanide salt, is mixed with an aqueous solution of at least one metal cyanide salt, at least one alkaline metal salt and, optionally, at least one functionalized polymer, in the presence of at least one organic complexing ligand.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

—The alkaline metal salt can be added to either the aqueous solution of metal salt or to the aqueous solution of metal cyanide salt or to both solutions or to the mixture after the two solutions are combined. Preferably, the alkaline metal salt is added to the aqueous solution of metal salt. The organic complexing ligand can be added to either the aqueous solution of metal salt or to the aqueous solution of metal

cyanide salt or to both solutions or to the mixture after the two solutions are combined or it can be added after formation of the precipitate. The functionalized polymer can be added to either the aqueous solution of metal salt or to the aqueous solution of metal cyanide salt or to both solutions or to the mixture after the two solutions are combined or it can be added after formation of the precipitate.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The isolated precipitate is preferably washed at least once with water and/or with a mixture which is preferably composed of water and at least one organic complexing ligand. More preferably, this mixture is composed of water, at least one organic complexing ligand and at least one alkaline metal salt. Most preferably, this mixture is composed of water, at least one organic complexing ligand, at least one alkaline metal salt and at least one functionalized polymer.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Preferably, the isolated precipitate is filtered from the wash mixture by known techniques such as, for example, centrifugation, filtration, filtration under pressure, decanting, phase separation or aqueous separation. The filtered precipitate is preferably washed at least once with a mixture which is preferably composed of at least one organic complexing ligand. More preferably, this mixture is composed of water, at least one organic complexing ligand and at least one alkaline metal salt. Most preferably, this mixture is composed of water, at least one organic complexing ligand, at least one alkaline metal salt and at least one functionalized polymer.--